

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

U.S. Application No. 10/054,891

Q68255

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 17-32, 34, 36 and 38-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. U.S. Patent No. 6,458,504 to Wachi et al. ("Wachi") or the combination of JP 2001/310941 ("JP '941") and 2001/328287 ("JP '287") all further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,027,850 to Kawakami et al. ("Kawakami").

Claims 1-6, 17-32, 34, 36 and 38-46 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wachi or the combination of JP '941 and JP '287 all further in view of Kawakami and U.S. Patent No. 6,468,634 to Miyake et al. ("Miyake").

Claims 1-6, 17-32, 34, 36 and 38-46 are additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/187418 to Nakamura et al. ("Nakamura '418").

Claims 7-16 are indicated as being drawn to allowable subject matter but are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim.

Claims 1 to 6 and 43 to 46 are canceled herewith. Claim 7 has been amended to recite the subject matter of Claim 1 and to read as an independent claim. Claims 17, 22, 34, 36, 38 and 40 to 42 have been amended to depend from Claim 7.

In view of the fact that Claim 7 is directed to allowable subject matter, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

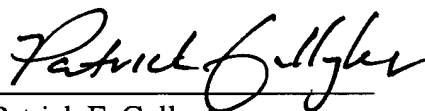
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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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